

High School Notes

Mr. Hodge, who recently resigned as instructor in the men's physical education classes at the evening high school, will be succeeded by Mr. Wm. McGinnis, football and basketball coach at Gardena high school.

Mr. Dave Fiddlerhoff, head of the physical education department of the George Washington high school will be in charge of a recreational program in the gym, which is open to both adults and the older boys of the community.

Seniors are sponsoring a noon dance in the gymnasium, at which a penny a dance is charged. The dances are held Tuesday and Thursday noons and are for high school students only.

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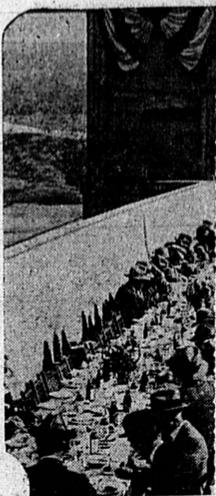
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Luncheon on a Huge New Dam in California



The gigantic municipal waters of the Mokelumne river was dedicated recently. One of the dam where 500 persons

WALTER

J. M. DeVito, chairman of committee to make a list of children under school age has just about completed and so will miss no one when he is ready and toys on the Commu Christmas tree that the various societies, clubs, etc., are arranged for Saturday evening, Decem 21, at the school house.

Mrs. W. M. Jacobs of Neeceville was called to the bedside her father, Del Abrams, who has been ill at the hospital in Woodland the past week, where he died Monday morning. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Abrams and their three daughters. Mrs. Harry Kelso of Michigan arrived Monday a few hours late. Mrs. W. M. Jacobs of Neeceville and Mrs. Emil Johnson of Montana who is expected to attend the funeral, which will be held Friday. Interment will be made in the Inglewood cemetery.

Mrs. C. S. Edmundson, counselor and Mrs. E. McLain, secretary-treasurer of the Lomita Pedagogical Council, accompanied by Mrs. P. T. A. attended the meeting of the Lomita-San Pedro C. held at the Lomita Elementary school, Monday.

Mr. Bingham of Ward street is enjoying a visit from his father, T. Bingham and his brother, Bingham of Arizona this week.

Mrs. J. S. Dolston and child Leona and Edgar of North street, spent Thanksgiving at home of her sister, Mrs. H. Kin of Olive.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Leslie Park street, entertained Mr. Mrs. A. Jones and son Roy of Winston, at dinner Sunday.

Misses Catherine and Aflin of North Park street, are

TWO

State Affairs

(Continued)

have time to grow before the cold weather. Grain growers and truck farmers have been unable to plant their spring crops. There is not sufficient moisture in the ground to germinate the seeds.

In Southern California, where much and larger acreage is under irrigation, crops have not been so hard hit. The drought and continued warm weather has aided alfalfa growers, but damaged some truck crops. Cattle and sheep in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and San Diego counties have been affected by the lack of water, grazing lands.

Foreboding, but not extremely alarming is the present condition of the Mediterranean fruit fly in Florida. New infestation, found in Orange County, Florida, while small, is being vigorously battled by Florida and Federal authorities.

Director Hecke declared. The Director of Agriculture, in a recent report, said that the State's citrus industry is being reorganized into 18 southern states of sterilized citrus fruits.

While California must continue to be on its guard, cautious, shipment of Florida fruit will still be prohibited into California by the State's quarantine against the citrus canker.

Governor Young pocket-vetoed the Crowley bill exempting larger cities from Department control in slaughtering and meat inspection activities. The existing meat inspection law is unsatisfactory to the Department of Agriculture, city health officers and the industry as a whole, Director Hecke declared. All interests are now cooperating to "make the best of a situation," he said. To relieve the present dilemma Director Hecke suggested that changes be made in the law by the next Legislature.

Marin County Plan. Not officially, but unofficially has State Superintendent of Public Instruction Kersey heard of the Marin County Plan for financing the State's schools. Whether officially or unofficially, members of the Governor's Council should know about it; be prepared to discuss it when official notification is given. Sponsored by A. W. Ray, Mill Valley school superintendent, other Marin County educators, the drive is in progress, via an initiative measure on the 1930 ballot, to give rural and elementary schools primary importance over urban and secondary schools by revolutionizing all principles of State fund apportionment.

The Marin Plan would, according to information received indirectly by Superintendent Kersey: 1. Shift the entire burden of reached cost to the State. 2. Counties would levy taxes to raise but \$20 instead of \$30 per pupil, a cut of one-third, while the State's apportionment would be jumped from \$30 to \$60 per pupil, allowing \$1800 apportionment of State moneys to each district for each statutory teacher.

3. County money would be used entirely for upkeep of schools, with the State meeting full cost of teacher hire.

Doomed, declared Superintendent Kersey, is rote-learning, that machine-like schooling, with all minds developed along one pattern. Said Kersey: "The child is an individualist, and to succeed later in life must remain an individualist."

To allow young Californians to remain individualists, the State must have a two-way plan of education, one emphasizing knowledge and skills, and the other continuing with modifications, the standardized courses which have ruled solely in the past.

Said Kersey: "Under the new order of things, we must permit children to work on their own initiative at various tasks from material arranged for instruction and self-correction... Under this plan, no child fails or skips a grade. Each works at a task until he has mastered it and progressed at his own best rate."

Accident Prevention, Wages. To Councilmen assembled, Will J. French, Director of Industrial Relations, read scripture, cited it as prime authority for two of his department's most important functions: accident prevention, collection of wages.

He read: "When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence."—Deuteronomy, 22:8.

He read again: "At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it."—Deuteronomy, 24:15.

The law enforcement division of his department, said Director French, collected \$96,308 in wages for 2770 men and women in October. More than 3200 labor law violation complaints were lodged during the month.

State employment agencies found work for 18,144 men and women in October, a gain of 925 over September and 286 in October, last year. Cotton workers in southern San Joaquin fields have been scarce, and housing conditions in these camps are materially better.

The Department of Industrial Relations has investigated the explosion on Nov. 18, in the X-ray room of the University of California hospital, at San Francisco. The department is working on measures to reduce X-ray fire hazards.

Institutions. Director of Institutions Earl E. Jensen reported:

1. That population in the State's mental hospitals is 14,238.

2. That the State's Drug Colony at Spadra, Los Angeles County, has a population of 86. Because of a recent outbreak of patients, and the escape of two in November, a 13-foot fence has been erected around the grounds. Of 50 one-time drug addicts, now cured and on parole, only seven have relapsed to the use of narcotics.

Park Visitors. The State has 27 parks and nine monuments and landmarks. The ten most popular parks were visited by 205,383 people last summer, an average of 10,372 weekly. This was Director of Natural Resources Stevenof's report.

Building & Loanmen. Reported by E. Forrest Mitchell, Director of the Department of Investment Relations:

1. For the first quarter (June 30-Sept. 30) assets of California building and loan associations have increased \$21,078. This is a gain of 4.75 per cent.

2. Total assets of building & loan associations now are \$464,367,239.14.

3. The department is keeping a vigilant check upon the licensing of new, and old associations whose permits have expired.

Crippled Children. Of 143 crippled children granted free surgical and medical care by the State, 70 have been released following successful operations. This was reported by Director of Public Health Dickie. (Director Dickie made no official reference to the tempest in his departmental teapots, see below).

Contractors, engaged in an experiment of self-regulation, under the licensing law adopted by the 1929 Legislature, are satisfied with the first results. Thus reported James F. Collins, Director of the State Professional and Vocational Standards Department.

Now licensed in the State are more than 12,500 contractors. Applications for permits to do business are arriving at a rate of 150 daily. By January 1, more than 20,000 California contractors will be licensed under the law.

Creation of a contractors' license fund from fees now being collected will make the system self-supporting, Director Collins confirmed.

Industrial Deadwood. No Councilman, but president of the California Civil Service Commission is W. A. Johnstone. At the Council meeting he appeared to aid Industrial Relations Director French represent the State's side of the "Fire-At-Work" problem.

Said Commission President Johnstone: "The State is now maintaining many employees, who are, as a matter of fact, State pensioners because there is no measure available by means of which they may be retired upon a just and equitable basis."

Commissioner Johnston called on the heads of the State departments to submit ideas as to maximum age limits the State should fix for various types of employment it offers. (Leading industrial concerns have set 50, others 40 as the maximum age limit).

Said Johnstone: "California now has no age limitations for employees who have secured permanent status under civil service, but has fixed a 60-year maximum age for entrance into service unless a specific age limit is set for the particular jobs they are to fill. These limits are now waived in exceptional cases on request of employing officials."

CALIFORNIA NEWS REVIEW

The Government Up & Up

The business (fiscal) year of the State government ends each year on June 30. Since it was instructed to do so by the State Legislature in 1923, the State Controller's office has each year since 1924 audited, checked over, published an annual analysis of State government accounts. Therefore, on last July 1 deputies of the State Controller's office began auditing the State's books for fiscal 1929. When they had completed their task, they turned their findings over to State Controller Ray L. Riley for analysis. Last week Controller Riley had completed his analysis, issued his report; found that State governmental costs had gone up &



WILL J. FRENCH... quoted scripture

up during 1929; found the following:

1) To operate the State government for fiscal 1929, \$108,644,173.55 was expended; for fiscal 1928, \$89,866,787.05. This is an increase of \$18,777,386.50 over the preceding 12-month period and a new high mark for governmental costs in California.

2) Since the first annual analysis was made for fiscal 1924, cost of government in California has increased no less than \$44,887,822.68; a gain of 70 per cent in five years.

The five fiscal years and their costs:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Cost. 1924: \$63,784,350.87; 1925: \$76,631,297.91; 1926: \$82,835,251.33; 1927: \$87,597,756.25; 1928: \$89,866,787.05; 1929: \$108,644,173.55

Controller Riley, declared candidate for governor (News Review, Nov. 11-17), made no direct attack upon Governor Young's administration in his report. He did, however, give notice of bombardments to come with this concluding paragraph: "The question all California citizens must face, dispassionately, without regard to partisan politics, is simply this: Can taxable property and the individual taxpayer carry the load? As Controller it is my duty to lay the facts before the public. As a candidate for governor, I shall reserve the right of future comment on these tabulations."

Valid

By laws passed by the Legislature in 1923 and 1927, California imposes a tax of 3 cents on every gallon of gasoline sold within the State (except for farm purposes); one cent of which is devoted exclusively to new highway construction by the State; the other two cents is divided equally between the State and the counties in which it originates for highway maintenance purposes.

Long agitated have been the following movements regarding the gas tax: 1) to have the tax raised to five, or possible six cents per gallon; 2) to have the tax abandoned. Especially active has been agitation for the latter proposal. Especially active in this agitation have been owners of large numbers of motor vehicles, motor bus operators.

When George B. William, William J. Finn, other Los Angeles bus and motor vehicle operators sought to test the gas tax law's constitutionality and thus have it abandoned, they tried to obtain an injunction against the State Controller restraining him from collecting the tax. The motor vehicle operators' arguments: 1) The State gas tax law was illegal because oil companies were allowed to keep 1 per cent of the receipts

(to cover evaporation); 2) because the oil companies were allowed to keep the tax money for 45 days; 3) because the tax was a "toll," forbidden under Federal highway aid laws; 4) because the money was used exclusively on rural road, whereas, the operators used their buses exclusively in the city.

But a statutory three-judge Federal court in Northern California refused to grant the injunction, refused also to interfere with the collection of the tax; said the laws under which it was collected were valid, constitutional.

Not disheartened, the motor bus operator carried their case to the U. S. Supreme Court for final decision. Last week the Supreme Court, having had the case under advisement for some weeks, announced its decision; declared the State gas law valid, constitutional, and motorists and bus operators should contribute toward the cost of maintaining and building of roads for their benefit.

Ross vs. Dickie

Suspended as State Vital Statistician a fortnight ago by the chief State Statistician, Director Walter M. Dickie was L. E. Ross. Charged with incompetence and neglect of duty, he was ordered to discontinue outside activities which are objectionable to the department. Statistician Ross was dismissed for thirty days, after which time Director Dickie announced he would file formal charges against him with the State Civil Service Commission (News Review, Nov. 25-Dec. 1).

Last week Capitol atmosphere crackled with charges, sensational accusations. What a fortnight before appeared to be little more than a disagreement over the routine operation of the State Department of Public Health took on new color. And the accusations, if true, charged that involve Director Dickie and Statistician Ross in a major scandal.

In an open letter to Dr. Dickie, Statistician Ross charged the health director with, among others, the following:

- 1) Taking funds appropriated for the Bureau of Vital Statistics without Ross' knowledge and using them for purposes other than those intended by the Legislature. 2) Inducing clerks of the Bureau to spy on Ross. 3) Retaining and raising the pay of a Bureau employee "detected in the dishonest practice of diverting State fees to personal use."

4) Failure to comply with the law requiring department heads to reside in Sacramento. (Director Dickie lives at Berkeley.) 5) Insisting "upon keeping the salaries of employees in this Bureau at a very low level, apparently with a desire to cripple it and prevent the retention of competent help" by asserting and hostility was shown toward me when I refused."

Director Dickie, still reticent as he was when he filed the charges against Statistician Ross, last week continued his silence, said he would not comment upon the situation until formal charges were filed against Ross with the State Civil Service Commission. He did say to newsmen, however, that the Ross open-letter was "full of personal statements entirely irrelevant to the reasons for which Ross was suspended."

No Remnant Sale

In session last week at Washington was President Hoover's Public Lands Commission. Representing the eleven western public lands states, commission members came to discuss with Secretary of the Interior Wilbur and Commission Chairman James R. Garfield (News Review, Oct. 28-Nov. 3) how best to approach the grazing, reclamation, water & power utilization, other problems of the West and the possibility of turning the surface rights of the public domain over to the eleven states.

Outlining the problems confronting the commission, Secretary Wilbur declared: The public domain has not been well administered; overgrazing has been allowed to the extent where it threatens vitally the important watersheds of the West. "The reason this problem is before you is that the population of the West has grown up to its water level... Nature knows nothing of the tax. The motor vehicle operators' arguments: 1) The State gas tax law was illegal because oil companies were allowed to keep 1 per cent of the receipts

idea that public lands are 'remnants' and the present project a 'remnant sale.'

Like Gaul, Chairman Garfield divided the work of the commission into three parts, and appointed subcommittee to study each. The parts: 1) to study the disposal and use of public lands; 2) disposal and use of subsoil minerals (especially oil); 3) a national reclamation policy.

The work outlined, the subcommittee named, the commission adjourned until early in January, when it is hoped a \$50,000 appropriation will be forthcoming from Congress to carry on the commission's work.

Political Notes

Go-Getters Battle

Civil war appeared imminent last week in the ranks of California's great army of "go-getters," the realtors, as a result of drastic licensing legislation enacted by the 1929 Legislature.

Salacious, rebellious against restrictive measures sanctioned by the California State Real Estate Association, signalled the start of hostilities last week by announcing formation of a new association to combat what they termed the "bona fide realtors." The "secessionists" organization, boasting 1,000 charter members, mostly from the southern counties, was formed under the name of The Real Estate Salesmen's Association of California, it was announced by the State Real Estate Department at Sacramento. Composed largely of salesmen and solicitors, the new organization will seek the repeal of the new licensing provision, which requires licensing of all salesmen and sets up rigid educational tests for applicants.

Under the 1929 law, solicitors, tipsters, runners, other subalterns of the realty business, all come under the general classification of salesmen and are compelled to secure licenses. Abolition of this section, or at least modification of the license fee, will be demanded by the new state association.

Army & Navy

Cruiser Crews

Drafted last week from the ships of the United States fleet stationed at San Pedro were 500 men. Once selected, they sailed aboard the naval transport Vega, en route to Camden, New Jersey, where they were to man the new U. S. Pensacola, second of the navy's 10,000-ton treaty cruisers.

Already below efficient enlisted strength are the battleship divisions. They must be further drained, to man six other 10,000-ton cruisers nearing completion, to supply crews for two fleet submarines. To build up the naval personnel, the Bureau of Navigation plans to request Congress, in session this week, to raise the Navy's enlisted strength from 87,000 to 92,000 men.

Last week brought forth announcement of the Pacific fleet's program for the ensuing months. This week all battleships stationed at San Pedro are slated to go to sea, climaxed by regular gunnery practice with tactical exercises. From December 8 until January 5, the fleet will be at anchor for machinery overhaul, completion of athletic programs, regular holiday leaves. From January 6 to 31, the battleship divisions will rehearse and fire long-range battle practice and turret night battle practice. From February 1 until February 15, they will again remain at anchor, sailing on the latter date for the winter cruise to the Caribbean and New York.

At Riverside

First in attendance for all State units of the California National Guard for October was Riverside's National Guard unit, Company G of the Hundred Eighty-Fifth Infantry. When Adjutant General R. E. Mittelstaedt recently surveyed attendance reports for October he found that Riverside's unit, with two officers and fifty-one enlisted men, had had a 100 per cent attendance record.

Of the other companies in the State, sixteen exceeded 90 per cent in attendance for the month. The State average of 77.14 was considered "satisfactory" by Adjutant General Mittelstaedt.

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